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We still have a good assortment of Fur Sets—sets that sold regular \$8.50 to \$50.00. You may now have your choice at

Half Price

Vessels Worth Twelve Million Dollars Interned at Boston

They Are Awaiting the Conclusion of the European War

(From the Boston Globe)
 Seven German spies and one Austrian have been interned at Boston since last August, when the European war broke out, and are either tied up at Boston docks or are anchored in the lower harbor.

Recognizing that England is mistress of the sea, they dare not venture out into the ocean highway, where they would run the risk of being captured.

Their owners and managers, representing an investment of almost 12 million dollars, decided at the outbreak of hostilities that a neutral port was the safest place for ships flying the German flag until the end of the war. As soon as it was evident that war would be declared the owners got into communication with the captain of the ships and ordered them to remain in or sail for some neutral port and await orders.

Every German captain knew that his duty was to protect his ship and cargo from capture and they governed themselves accordingly.

The most widely known of the German fleet of five vessels at this port is the Kronprinzessin Cecilie of the North German Lloyd Steamship company. Its escape from the enemy when off the Irish coast last August, when its passengers thought they were headed for England and the continent, only to find that they were steaming at top speed back to the American coast, and the arrival of the great ship at Bar Harbor, created great public excitement.

Because of suits in the United States courts, and because it could get better protection and dockage facilities in a big port it was sent to Boston in charge of the United States marshal of the Maine district conveyed by two torpedo boat destroyers.

It is now anchored at the new State pier in East Boston, where it will probably remain until hostilities are over.

It has a crew of 550 aboard of it and the captain is doing everything he can to make things as comfortable as possible while they are detained here. About 50 of the crew have left, having been admitted as emigrants.

One of the Largest Afloat?
 During the recent storm the ships, especially the Cecilie, had great difficulty in maintaining their anchorage. Their owners fear that with the coming of winter storms great damage may be done to the craft unless they are tied up at some wharf. Two more of the boats will probably tie up at the Commonwealth dock, South Boston.

The Cecilie cost to build more than 2½ million dollars. It carried a fair cargo and a big passenger list when it sailed from New York, July 25 last, in an ineffective attempt to reach the other side.

Among the consignments was a large shipment of gold from New York for London banks, which, of course, under the circumstances it was unable to deliver to the consignees. They have sued the steamship company for a breach of contract, which suit is now before the United States court in this city, and that is another reason why the big liner is here. The Cecilie is one of the largest ships afloat. It arrived here November 6.

There are four other North German Lloyd steamers in the harbor. The Kolo, 7,000 tons, valued at one million

dollars, Captain Jacobus, sailed from Bremerhaven, July 29, with a general cargo and passengers for Boston and New Orleans. It arrived in Boston August 11, disguised as a White Star liner.

The Witkeind, 5,640 tons, Captain Semblil, also valued at one million dollars, left Hamburg July 24 with passengers and cargo for Montreal. The owners intercepted the ship at sea by wireless and it proceeded direct to Boston in the disguise of a British tramp steamer. It poked its nose up the lower harbor August 9 and the next day landed passengers and later the cargo. After discharging its freight it was towed to its berth in the lower harbor and has been there ever since.

The Witkeind, another North German liner, was loading at Montreal for Hamburg when things began to look interesting on the other side. Its captain hurried things up and got away, heading for Boston, where he arrived August 5. It discharged its cargo at this port and was towed to anchorage in the harbor. Of a crew of 95 men when it arrived here, almost half have left, finding employment ashore.

Forty of the Kolo crew have left for the same reason, leaving 70 on board to await sailing as soon as the war is over. The Witkeind had a crew of about 100 when it arrived, but half of them have obtained employment ashore and have decided to become American citizens. About the same proportion are left on the Witkeind.

The Oerentel's crew of 69 are still aboard the boat, which sailed from Calcutta for Boston and New York June 12 and arrived in this city under command of Captain Von Aswegen, August 4.

Over at the Commonwealth Dock are berthed the great steamers Amerika and Cincinnati of the Hamburg-American line. A few years ago they were regarded as the last word in steamship building—floating palaces, with every convenience man could devise for the comfort of passengers. The Amerika, which is the larger of the two, cost more than two million dollars to build, and the Cincinnati cost 1½ million dollars.

The Cincinnati was all ready to sail when war broke out and it has remained at the dock ever since. The Amerika arrived a few days after hostilities began with smokestacks painted to represent a White Star boat. They are among the greatest cargo and passenger carrying vessels afloat and are today among the finest ships in the world.

The Cincinnati had about 365 in its crew when the war broke out. Today it has about 200 aboard. The others have found employment ashore and have left the employ of the line. It was to sail August 8, but the day before Captain Schaarman received word from his line to tie the boat in Boston, remove the cargo and await orders. Awaiting Captain Schukle of the Amerika when he arrived were similar orders. Both vessels have been at the Hamburg-American dock in South Boston since.

The Amerika's crew has also been depleted since the war, but there are still about 300 whom the line must pay and feed abroad the ship.

The Amerika is the biggest ship that runs between this port and European ports and is one of the finest boats

of the line. It costs the owners \$75 a day for wharfage for the two big ships, which is considered a very low rate when it is considered that they run less risk in being tied up to a wharf than they do lying in the harbor. There they run the risk of being blown to sea in a storm.

There is also the risk of some daring Britisher imitating the captain of the Emden and taking a chance shot at them which might send them to the bottom.

The crews aboard the interned ships are kept quite busy painting, cleaning and otherwise keeping the craft in first class shape. They are often allowed shore leave. Quite a number of them have taken advantage of the offer of the school board, which permits them to attend the night schools, learn English and improve their general education.

The musicians of the crews have been able to obtain engagements to play at hotels and restaurants.

The Erny, the only other foreign ship, arrived here August 12 with a general cargo from Mediterranean ports. It is a new ship, having been put into commission this year. Its home port is Trieste, Austria. It is valued at \$650,000, is 402 feet long and 51 feet beam. Its net tonnage is 4,171. It is tied up at Campbell's Wharf, Chelsea. Its crew of 55 is still intact.

All of the boats keep up steam, so that in case of fire they would be able to back out in the stream.

The big German liners are dark and gloomy inside. Only enough lights are kept burning to enable the crews to find their way about. The great dining rooms and the elegantly furnished lounging and music rooms of these splendid boats are as silent as a graveyard. The great promenade decks, which used to be trod by fashionable geographers, are also deserted.

The ships are prepared for a long stay. The captains keep in close touch with the agents of their lines, and at least once a week visit them in town and confer with the representatives of the owners about the care and custody of the ships.

ANOTHER EAST LAS VEGAS CASE It Proves That There's a Way Out for Many Suffering East Las Vegas Folks

Just another report of a case in East Las Vegas. Another typical case. Kidney ailments relieved in East Las Vegas with Doan's Kidney Pills.

H. C. Leahy, locomotive fireman, 25 Railroad Ave., East Las Vegas, says: "About three years ago my back and kidneys were giving me trouble. Nothing helped me until I used Doan's Kidney Pills. They took away the pains in my back and put me in good shape again. Those who follow railroad are often subject to kidney ailments. The jolting of the train is bad and one doing that work needs a strong back. I am glad that I know of Doan's Kidney Pills, as they can be depended upon."

Price 50c at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Leahy had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.—Adv.

LIBRARIANS MEET

Chicago, Dec. 30.—The annual mid-winter meeting of the American library association opened today at Hotel LaSalle, with many prominent librarians present from many sections of the country. President E. H. Anderson, of the New York public library will preside over the meetings which will occupy three days. There are 2,600 members and the association was formed 38 years ago.

The discussions this morning were under the auspices of the League of Library commissions. The council will hold sessions this afternoon and tomorrow afternoon. The publishing board will meet tomorrow morning. Thursday is reserved for the meeting of the executive board. Friday will be devoted to meetings of library school faculties and college librarians. Tonight the visitors will be entertained by the Chicago Library club.

Catarh Cannot be Cured with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease.

Catarh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surface. Hall's Catarh Cure is not a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best known tonic, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing catarh. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENBY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, price 75c.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Subscribe for The Optic.

ERUPTIONS ON LITTLE GIRL'S HEAD

Scalp Dry Like Powder. Scaled Over. Used Cuticura Soap and Ointment. No Signs of Trouble Since.

Granite Falls, Wash.—"At the age of two years there came a scale on my little girl's head. Her scalp was very dry like powder which roughed in the hair and mixed with the scales. Eruptions would appear and at times they would itch. They would bleed when I combed her hair. It seemed to scale over from one combing to the next. "I commenced to treat her as soon as I saw the least sign of the eruption. I tried solution at first and after washed with soap but she got no relief. Then I used the Cuticura Soap and Ointment, lathering her head, then washing and applying the Cuticura Ointment every morning. In two weeks she was well and there have been no signs of the trouble since." (Signed) Mrs. C. F. Johnston, Apr. 14, 1914.

UNSIGHTLY PIMPLES ON FACE

R. F. D. No. 1, Box 110, Harvey, Ill.—"About two years ago pimples and blackheads broke out on my face. They were red and inflamed and burned terribly so that I sometimes would scratch them. They were very unsightly. I lost much sleep. I used two cakes of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment and the burning stopped. In two months I was well." (Signed) George Madderom, May 8, 1914.

Samples Free by Mail

Although Cuticura Soap (25c.) and Cuticura Ointment (50c.) are sold throughout the world, a sample of each with 33-p. Skin Book will be sent free upon request. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. T, Boston."

DEATH ENDS QUEER STORY OF LOVE

TWO BROTHERS LIVE ESTRANGED FOR MANY YEARS BECAUSE OF A GIRL

Springfield, Mass., Dec. 30.—When Jaris Wood, aged 82, died in his lonely cabin on Tenerife mountain in East Brookfield a few days ago, the story of a strange enmity was told in the village. For 42 years Jaris and his brother John worked side by side without speaking, and when John lay on his deathbed neither of the brothers would consent to a reconciliation.

The estrangement of the two brothers forms a love story that surpasses the fondest plots of the novelist. Both men were suitors for the hand of Miss Mary Squire, and it is said by some, never contradicted by either brother, that they fought a duel to see which would be the lucky man. Jaris won, and went to Spencer, Mass., and married the girl. This was in 1862.

Jaris Wood returned to the lonely farmhouse with his bride but received no welcome from John. For a time the newlyweds occupied one side of the house and John the other. Mrs. Wood's efforts to effect a reconciliation in Jaris building another cabin. When John took sick, Jaris Wood's wife nursed him, but when she saw death was coming, and she tried to reunite the brothers, neither would consent. During the funeral of John, Jaris sat upon the doorstep, but did not enter the old house until the funeral cortege had started toward the cemetery. During their lives the brothers eked out a bare existence. No modern implements were never used by them, for both decided to conduct the rocky farm just as their father did before them.

The estrangement was known by all the townsfolk, but neither John nor Jaris would answer any questions of interviewers, and their own stories of the 42 years feud were never told.

ORTIZ CONTEST BEGINS

Albuquerque, Dec. 30.—Taking of testimony was begun today in the contest instituted by Modesto Ortiz against the election of Rafael Garcia to the legislature. Ortiz is a republican. Garcia was the only democrat to be elected by the voters of this county.

The hearing was before Justice of the Peace Sanchez, in the court room at the county court house. Ortiz was his own lawyer and District Attorney Manuel Vigil appeared for Garcia.

Ortiz attacks the election of Garcia on the ground of alleged irregularities at Alameda. He alleges that the road fund was used to influence the voting.

Garcia's election was exceedingly narrow. Official count of the ballots showed ten in his favor. It was the narrowness of the election that encouraged Ortiz to file a contest.

A number of witnesses were examined this morning and a number remained to be called when the hearing was resumed this afternoon. The testimony was transcribed on a typewriter by a fast bi-lingual operator as it was given. Copies were taken by each attorney as the sheets came from the machine.

FIRST USED FOR AMUSEMENT

Inventors of Gunpowder Apparently Had No Idea of Its Destructive Qualities.

That gunpowder was well known for a century or so before it was used in guns appears probable from investigations in connection with celebration at Oxford of the anniversary of the birth of Roger Bacon, the Literary Digest states. Bacon's claims to the invention of gunpowder are often pressed by English writers in opposition to those of Berthold Schwarz, who is generally said to have invented it about 1344—a century after Bacon's time. It seems certain from the latter's writings that he was familiar with the competition, not as its inventor, but because of its use in various countries of the world. Apparently, however, it was regarded merely as a fireworks, a means of producing sudden and brilliant flame, and its users were far from suspecting that in a confined space the expansive power of its gases could be put to use in hurling projectiles. Says an editorial writer in the Revue des Questions Scientifiques: "The text that we have studied allows no further doubt that Bacon knew of gunpowder. On page 213, under the title 'Of the Power of the Lombards,' he restates what he has already said in his 'Opus Majus' of the explosive properties of this powder, but he also informs us that it is known in various parts of the world, and that it is composed of saltpeter, sulphur and willow charcoal."

SEEMS THAT INSTINCT ERRS

Deuded Rabbits That Make Homes in Oil Pipes in California—Birds' Grave Error.

That almost unerring instinct which carries animals through grave dangers has led in many instances in the Midway and Sunset oil fields of California to their undoing, the Scientific American remarks. Chief among such victims are rabbits and water fowl. A jackrabbit and a cottontail find a nice round, smooth hole. There are many such in the oil fields where oil piping is a necessity for the transportation of oil to the refineries. The rabbits decide to set up housekeeping there. The cottontail desires a permanent home, and the jackrabbit wants a refuge safe from malevolent man.

Soon they discover their habitat is being moved. No doubt they are frightened, but they instinctively stay within their retreat. One end of the hole is closed. Even then they do not leave. Soon the other end of the hole is darkened. Then it is darkness eternal for the furry pair.

Some time later it is discovered that a newly laid oil pipe is choked. After a great labor the line is disjunct and the remains of many rabbits removed. Thousands of rabbits have been thus exterminated in the oil fields.

The death rate among water fowl is even greater. Again, as with the rabbits, instinct leads them to certain destruction. Every little lake of oil in the vicinity of a gusher is a trap for the unthinking birds. At twilight and dawn these tar-colored lakes appear as bodies of water to the deluded fowl.

How the Humbug First Buzzed.

It is not generally known that the word "humbug," long so much in vogue, is of Scottish origin. There was in olden time a family called Bogue, or Boag, of that ilk in Berwickshire. A daughter of the family married a son of Hume of Hume. In process of time, by default of male issue, the Bogue estate devolved on one Gordie Hume, who was called popularly "Hume of the Bogue, or, rather 'Hum o' the Bug."

He was inclined to the marvelous, and had a vast inclination to exalt himself, his wife, family, brother and all his ancestors on both sides. His tales, however, did not pass current and at last, when anyone made an extraordinary statement in the Nearns the hearer would shrug up his shoulders, and style it just "A hum o' the bug." This was shortened to humbug and the word soon spread over the whole kingdom.

Most Appropriate.

"Do you know," remarked Mr. Gaynor, to his wife, one evening, "I think photography is a very strange profession."

"Why so?" queried Mrs. Gaynor, with a smile, "because it develops negatives?"

"Not that, exactly," replied the husband, "but as an example, my dear, you recall that picture I had taken the other day, in my riding tights—not on a horse, you know, but just standing in my riding outfit, with my crop held in my hand. Well, today the photographer phoned me that the pictures are ready for me and that they are all mounted."

Protect the Birds.

There is every reason why the people of the farms should protect the birds, all kinds of them, which destroy the insects that are annually bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars of loss to the people of the country, from the farmers and then to the world. The game birds are insectivorous, but they are not all that are. There are numerous birds of the forest and field which work day in and day out for men and yet these same men who should be protecting them go out to shoot and rand them unto death.—Exchange.

HELD IN TREE 15 HOURS BY COYOTES

Pack Howls All the Night While Two Men Cling to Their Perch.

Bartlett, Neb.—Attacked by a pack of coyotes, held in a tree for more than fifteen hours and then permitted to escape in an almost miraculous manner, was the story told here by Henry Townsend and Thomas Coupland, business partners.

Townsend and Coupland were returning in a motor car from a business trip to O'Neill. They were attacked by a large number of coyotes in the sand-hill country while eating lunch near a creek.

They were cut off from their car. They were armed with revolvers; but the coyotes were too numerous to start a fight. A hickory tree was near.



Shot One of the Crows.

The men ran for it. The angry animals snarled below. Hour after hour they howled, but the men were out of their reach. Morning came, but not one animal had left. They appeared to become more angry and hungry. At nine o'clock the howling was almost unbearable.

Suddenly two crows passed a short distance over the tree. Four more were following the same course. Coupland drew his revolver.

"Maybe I can get a little prey for those beasts below," he told Townsend. He shot one of the crows. The coyotes ran for it.

The men made a break for their machine, 200 feet away. After eating the crow the maddened animals returned and made a dash for the men. Coupland killed half a dozen of the leaders while Townsend cranked the car. A moment more and the men were off.

CENTIPEDES A FOOT LONG

Giant Insects of the Tropics Have Forty-Two Feet, and Every Claw Is Poisonous.

The giant centipede of Trinidad and Venezuela is sometimes a foot long, and can do very serious harm. Its foremost pair of feet are modified into supplementary jaws, which are fang-like, and may inflict a powerful bite; furthermore, each has a poison gland at its base, that sends into the wound a venom deadly to small creatures, and very painful even to mankind.

Moreover the sharp claw of each of the 42 feet is poisonous likewise, so that when the animal crawls over the soft skin of the human arm, it leaves a trail of red, inflamed spots. It is dangerous to knock the centipede off, for instantly the creature drives the claws more deeply into the flesh, and sends a greater amount of venom into each puncture; it may also take hold with its jaws.

When the centipede seizes its prey, or is itself caught by an enemy, it curls itself round its antagonist, and grips it tenaciously with all its legs. Many myriapods are brightly banded with black and yellow, contrasting tints that show conspicuously against the dark soil of the forests where they abound. The giant centipede is a shining mahogany brown, with the legs bluish and ringed with yellow.—Youth's Companion.

Artillery Company Chooses Officers.

The Honorable Artillery company, whose ranks are now full, is the only military body over which parliament has no control. It is governed under numerous royal warrants and the crown appoints its chief. At one time the company claimed absolutely the right of electing their own captain general; the corporation endeavored to reduce this right to the privilege of presenting three candidates to the lord mayor and aldermen, and from these the final choice should be made. The privy council was called in to decide the question, and a compromise resulted. To the company was given the right of choosing their officers, to the corporation the choice of president, while to the crown was reserved the right of nominating the captain general.—London Chronicle.

THIS IS A TALE OF BESSIE, A COW

And the Mystery of It All Is, Who Cut the Good Bovine's Tail Off?

WEARS A KIMONO NOW

Poor Beast Had Nothing With Which to Fight Off the Troublesome Flies. So Owner Made It a Nice Covering of Yellow.

Chicago.—Mrs. Emma Mylie, who owns several lots at North Sixty-second and West North avenues, recently ditched her tent on one of them, planted a vegetable and rose garden about it, tethered Tom, her horse, and Bessie, her cow, near by, and settled herself to spend a happy summer in the open. Bessie grazed away stolidly and seemed to be perfectly contented with life until a few nights ago, when something dreadful happened.

That is why George A. H. Scott of the Illinois Humane society received an anonymous telephone call to the effect that it would be well to investigate a case of cruelty to animals in the vicinity of the Westward Ho Golf club. Charles H. Brayne, an officer of the society, was dispatched to investigate.

Near Mrs. Mylie's tent he came full upon a vision of flaming yellow. At first he thought it was a brilliantly painted sign. Then he saw that it was alive. He approached fearfully. From one end of the yellow mass a pair of horns protruded, from the other, alas! there emerged all of what was left of Bessie's once long and bushy tail.

"It's—it's a cow, isn't it?" he asked, pointing to the yellow object.

"Yes, that's Bessie," said Mrs. Mylie. "I had to make a yellow kimono for her, poor thing, she was so uncomfortable. You see, she used to have a long tail and whisked the flies away in a manner that made old Tom over there envious. But the other night somebody slipped up and cut half her tail off."

Brayne wondered against whom the cruelty charge should be placed. "I guess I'll go and look for the rest of her tail," he said.

Just then Bessie shook her kimono in the breeze and old Tom, unaccustomed to associating with any but kimono-less cows, snorted, kicked his heels in the air, and hurried off to the far end of the field.

At Sixty-fourth and West North ave.



Vision of Flaming Yellow.

nues Brayne met a boy carrying a bushy object.

"I found this in the grass there," he said. "I wonder what it belongs to." "See that big yellow thing jumping about," Brayne replied. "It's the other half of that."

LANDS MONSTER OF THE SEA

New Jersey Pier Angler Finds 250-Pound Sunfish Trapped in the Piling.

Wildwood, N. J.—When James G. McQuiston of 6611 Lansdowne avenue, Philadelphia, decided to spend Saturday fishing off the Crest pier, he suspected that the largest he would land would be a kingfish, but after a half-day's sport he discovered what he supposed to be a monster turtle caught in the shallow breakers beneath the pier and among the pilings. Hastening to the spot he threw his weight upon its rough back and found that he had a new specimen.

Calling for help, McQuiston soon had a number of pier attaches with him, and together they stranded the monster, after receiving some rough usage from his two gigantic fins. McQuiston placed the fish on the pier and a hundred names were given it before an interested pedagogue from the Wildwood schools classified it as a sunfish. McQuiston shipped his catch to his Philadelphia home. The sunfish is seldom seen as far north as the Jersey coast, its habitat being in the southern waters, where it sometimes grows to immense size.